



RSA Commissioner's Update

FROM COMMISSIONER LYNNAE RUTTLEDGE

JUNE/JULY 2011

Welcome to the *RSA Commissioner's Update*! Published by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), this update is intended to increase awareness and knowledge of RSA activities. We will send you a new edition via email and we hope you enjoy it.

BUDGET UPDATE

The administration has identified cuts required to reach a \$31 million reduction in appropriation, plus a 0.2% across the board rescission, excluding the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) state grants (Grants to States (RA Title I-A, sections 110 and 111) and Grants to Indians (RA Title I-C). You can go to the OMB website at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget> or Department of Education website at www.ed.gov to review the 2011 budget. We would like to share the following information:

- Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers (RA section 304): continuation of funding will be provided, but no new grants will be awarded.
- Recreational Programs (RA section 305): program funding was discontinued.
- Projects with Industry (RA VI-A): program funding was discontinued.
- Program Improvement (RA section 12 (a)): program funding was discontinued. Limited activity may be conducted under the Demonstration and Training program (RA section 303).
- Evaluation (RA section 14): program funding was discontinued. Limited activity may be conducted under the Demonstration and Training program (RA section 303).

GRANT COMPETITIONS

- On April 20, 2011, the Department published a notice in the Federal Register inviting applications for new awards under the Rehabilitation Long-Term Training program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011. Since that time, the Department has determined that, as a result of final congressional action on FY 2011 appropriations, there are not sufficient funds available in 2011 to make new awards. As such, on May 17, 2011 the Department published a notice to withdraw this notice inviting applications for new awards for FY 2011 under this program at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-05-17/pdf/2011-12072.pdf>.
- On June 20, 2011, the Department published a notice of Proposed Priority (NPP) in the Federal Register for the Special Demonstration Programs, National Technical Assistance Projects to Improve Employment Outcomes for Individuals with Disabilities. Comments must be received on or before July 20, 2011.
- On June 27, 2011, the Department published a notice in the Federal Register inviting applications for new awards under the Centers for Independent Living for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011. Comments must be received on or before July 20, 2011. The deadline for transmittal of applications is July 27, 2011.

WORKING TOGETHER TO BETTER SERVE VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES

Veterans with disabilities, rehabilitation professionals, and businesses that hire and retain veterans with disabilities benefit from collaborative partnerships within the public vocational rehabilitation program. The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and the Veterans Administration (VA) have a long and positive history in working together to assure better employment outcomes for veterans with disabilities.

On May 23, 2011, RSA Commissioner Lynnae M. Ruttledge and Director Ruth A. Fanning, along with the VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Service, reaffirmed their shared commitment and signed an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU will ensure that both federal agencies work together to support local relationships between state VR agencies and other entities funded by RSA and the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services program. Services are administered through VA regional offices for the purpose of providing a more comprehensive and integrated program of vocational rehabilitation services for veterans with disabilities. Building on the collaborative relationships at the federal, state, and local levels, the MOU will encourage the development of new relationships and coordination of services in new ways. The intended result is more, better, and in many cases more localized services to veterans with disabilities who want to prepare for, get, or keep a job.

There is an excellent resource for rehabilitation professionals in the 34th IRI Institute on Rehabilitation Issues entitled ***When Johnny (or Jeannie) Comes Marching Home . . . and Back to Work Linking Veterans Affairs and State Vocational Rehabilitation Services for Service Men and Women*** at <http://iriforum.org/download/34IRI.pdf>.

RSA and VR&E look forward to working together with the many partners that working on better outcomes for our veterans with disabilities. Some of the key partners with current activities include the National Rehabilitation Association, the Council of State Administrators for Vocational Rehabilitation, and the National Council on Independent Living.

RSA-MIS WEBSITE

Agency report cards have been posted for FY 2009 and FY 2008. The agency report cards contain 95 different data elements for each agency and year. The "Underlying Tables" spreadsheet lists the results of all 80 agencies for each data element. There is an index from which each table is linked, as well as an explanation of the data element. Information can be found at <http://rsa.ed.gov>.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE

Rehabilitation Services Administration
U.S. Department of Education
<http://rsa.ed.gov>

2011 National Financial Management Conference: "Financial Management: A Sound Investment in Successful VR Outcomes" August 23-26, 2011 Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Virginia Conference Website: www.regonline.com/2011fiscal